

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND RESOURCES



*OPENING STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN DARRELL ISSA*

Oversight Hearing:

“Conjunctive Water Management: A Solution to the West’s Growing Water Demand?”

April 5, 2006

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to our Subcommittee hearing. Today, we will highlight the growing demand for water in western states and how conjunctive water management provides a solution. Booming population growth coupled with arid climates has intensified the need for more efficient water supply management systems. In response, several methods have been employed to maximize water supply, such as conservation programs, construction of new dams, and desalination plants. Despite these methods, water supply and infrastructure, in California and throughout the West, are vulnerable to an impending crisis.

This issue is of paramount importance for my constituents in Southern California, as well as for the entire West.

Some experts propose that conjunctive water management is the leading and most effective method for resolving water shortage problems. Conjunctive water management is a tool which coordinates the use of surface and ground water, focusing on creating additional water storage.

This method of water management has the potential to double the amount of on-demand water supply in my home State of California. However, there are also some challenges to the expansion of conjunctive water management. These include acquiring the necessary resources to build new or retrofit current facilities, possible environmental problems, and lack of data on regional water tables.

The hearing today will provide an overview of how well current conjunctive water management projects are working. Our hearing will also address the benefits and shortcomings of conjunctive water management systems. Finally we will look at the federal government role in the design, funding, or implementation of conjunctive water management systems.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses. Today we have:

- **Mr. Jason Peltier**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of Interior
- **Mr. P. Joseph Grindstaff**, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority
- **Mr. Anthony J. Pack**, General Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District, Perris, CA